

Episode II: The Return of Gear Up!

For the second year, T&Ters will be gearing up for the fun and games of the Awana-style game show Gear Up!

Gear Up is the new Scripture memory counterpart to AwanaGames and is open to all 3rd-6th graders.

Events during the day will include clubber vs. parent games, musical chicken, farm animal frenzy, Are You Smarter than a T&Ter and interactive songs. There will also be a gospel message and food will be provided for quizzers and their families!

The exact games played and schedule may vary based on location.

The concept of all the meets, however, remains the same—for clubbers to have fun with their families and reward them for studying and learning more about God's Word. This is what Awana is all about and Gear Up is a great way to reward all their hard work!

Gear Up will have a friendly, laid back atmosphere to help T&Ters feel less pressure,

while also providing entertainment to those participating and in the audience.

Quizzers will compete in multiple choice and speed (buzzer) rounds and will be responsible for knowing all the material in discoveries/challenges 1-4 of their handbooks and the Start Zone.

Awards will be given for team and individual achievements and food may also be provided.

Teams for Gear Up can consist of 1-4 quizzers and one coach. Registration for Gear Up! is just \$25 per team and advance registration is re-

quired.

All quizzers on a team must compete in the same book. Churches are able to have multiple teams per book if needed. Gear Up! is available for all four books of T&T and is not Bible version specific.

To register and see the Gear Up events schedule, as well as coaching instructions and rules, visit our North Carolina Awana website at www.awananc.com.



An Ultimate Adventure Day!

Visually impaired child sees beauty of Holy Scriptures thanks to Awana leader

Our church started Awana in September 2006. We were able to see many children coming to know God and many families that joined our small group of believers came to the church because their children were invited and wanted to come back.

I started out as the game leader and I will always treasure that experience. I accepted the role of Commander in 2008. I have seen God's hand working in many ways since 2006 but nothing like what happened last year.

We had a Cubbie named Sara who is visually impaired. As she moved up to Sparks she was having some difficulties.

After asking for leaders during the service one Sunday, Mr. Bobby, a faithful older member of our church came to me to find out how he could help. I was having a problem finding a place for Mr. Bobby to serve.

You see, Mr. Bobby has been totally blind since a young age. Every Sunday afterwards he would ask me when he was going to be able to work in the Awana program. I prayed

and prayed and one night after sharing my problem my Cubbie director asked "why not let Mr. Bobby help Sara?"

I talked to Sara's mom and with tears in her eyes she told me that she had praying that God would send someone to help her daughter. After talking with Mr. Bobby he was overjoyed at finally having a job in Awana. That first night Mr. Bobby and Sara bonded immediately.

Mr. Bobby started by showing Sara John 3:16 in his Braille Bible. A Sparks leaders and I looked on with tears in our eyes as Mr. Bobby took Sara's fingers and let her feel the mighty word of God. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

God does answer prayers and He does work through His servants in Awana.

Eddie Parrish is commander at Lighthouse Baptist in Benson, NC.

If you have an idea for a future Leader Spotlight, please send an E-mail to david@awana.org!

Leader

Spotlight

Written by Eddie Parrish



Sparky — there's an app for that!

Check out iTunes and the Android Marketplace for the app "Sparky Shines His Light," an interactive storybook starring everyone's favorite firefly!

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 21 Basic Training (includes Trek & Journey) @ Poplar Springs Christian Church, Raleigh, NC
- Jan. 21 Focus - Engaging Parents @ Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist, Kannapolis, NC
- Jan. 28 T&T Gear Up @ Green Level Bapt., Cary, NC
- Jan. 28 T&T Gear Up (BQ) @ Trinity Bapt., Asheville, NC
- Feb. 4 T&T Gear Up @ Guilford Baptist, Greensboro, NC
- Feb. 4 Journey GymkAwana @ Walter Johnson Middle School, Morganton, NC
- Feb. 11 T&T Gear Up @ First Baptist Church, Concord, NC
- Feb. 11 Trek GymkAwana @ Walter Johnson Middle School, Morganton, NC
- Feb. 18 T&T Gear Up @ Grace Church, Greenville, NC
- Feb. 25 Pinnacle @ West Stanly Baptist, Albemarle, NC
- Mar. 3-6 Summit @ Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL
- Mar. 10 AwanaGames @ Pitts Baptist, Concord, NC
- Mar. 17 Sparks-a-Rama @ Central Bapt., Kannapolis, NC
- Mar. 17 AwanaGames / Sparks-a-Rama @ Trinity FWB, Greenville, NC
- Mar. 17 AwanaGames @ Walter Johnson Middle School, Morganton, NC
- Mar. 24 AwanaGames / Sparks-a-Rama @ Apex Baptist, Cary, NC
- Mar. 31 Sparks-a-Rama @ Northside Baptist, Wilmington, NC
- Apr. 21 AwanaGames / Sparks-a-Rama @ Salem Baptist, Dobson, NC
- May 12 Camp-a-Rama Sparks day camp @ West Cabarrus Church, Concord, NC

**For a complete listing of Awana events in North Carolina visit www.awananc.com!

The Pulse

PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS



Tommy & Paula Nash:

Praise: For a Happy New Year! We are looking forward to what God has planned for us this year & praise Him for the churches that have signed up for the Engaging Parents seminar this month. We will have fun and we believe that many children will be affected for eternity because of the leaders attending this seminar.



Kevin & Marietta Chewing

Praise: We praise God for the wonderful opportunities that God is giving us to serve churches in 2012.

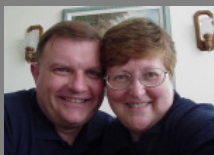
Prayer Requests: We pray that churches will use Gear Up to spread the gospel. We also pray that this event will increase the clubbers' boldness in sharing the gospel with their friends and families.



Al & Mildred Schlosser

Praise: Praise the Lord for a good Christmas season and a little rest.

Prayer Request: Pray for Mildred's sister, Georgia, she had a tumor on her appendix removed and will have further surgery for cancer when she recovers from this surgery.



Allen & Marion Bailey

Praise: A great time of celebration with our family up in Illinois. We traveled many, many miles and we are thankful for the Lord's

protection.

Prayer Request: One of our ministry partners has been hospitalized with congestive heart failure and lung difficulties.



David & Liz Roach

Praise: For friends and family who stand by us continually as we learn how to minister through Awana.

Prayer Request: For God to get the praise and the glory in our state and country in 2012. Also, that Awana would be a light to our world.

Pinnacle, a statewide Trek, Journey event is coming on February 25th!

One day extravaganza includes AwanaGames, Bible quiz, fine arts and cup stacking competitions

Load up the van and get ready to bring your teens to Pinnacle on Saturday, February 25 at West Stanly Baptist in Albemarle, NC.

This one-day event features opportunities for teens in both Trek and Journey to participate in AwanaGames, Bible quizzing, fine arts and cup stacking competitions.

Pinnacle also gives your youth a chance to meet teens from around the state and help motivate them to continue memorizing God's Word.

Any church with Awana can participate in Pinnacle, even if there isn't an official Trek and/or Journey program in place. However, Trek students MUST complete 10 sections in a Trek handbook this year to be eligible while Journey students MUST complete their Faith's Foundations for this year.

Past Pinnacle participants have said that the regional competition and fellowship has unified their youth group, initiated growth in their relationship with God, provided the opportunity to meet and compete with students from all across North Carolina while offering the simple pleasure of good, clean, all-out fun.

The excitement starts at 8:30 a.m. with the fine arts and cup stacking competitions, Bible quizzing will begin at 10 a.m. and the day will conclude with AwanaGames at 1 p.m. **schedule subject to change*

Advance registration is required and is available on the North Carolina Awana website.

Fees for Pinnacle are \$50 for a games team, \$25 for a quizzing team, \$20 per fine arts participant/entry and \$5 per cup stacking entry.

Each teen must have completed and turned in a parental consent form to be eligible to participate. Forms are available online at www.awananc.com.

Also available online are coaches trainings for all the segments of Pinnacle, rule books, records, assignment sheets and fine arts judging forms.

The fine arts categories allow students to develop their ministry-related gifts. Participants can enter in any of several categories: instrumental solo/ensemble, vocal solo/ensemble, piano solo, painting, drawing, photography and giving a large group message.

This year will also feature the return of cup stacking to the Pinnacle lineup.

Teens register for this event individually and there is no limit for the number of participants per church.

Participants will compete head-to-head in bracket-style competition and will have to up-stack and down-stack three stacks of three cups (called the 3-3-3 stack) each during the competition.

Participants will be judged according to the World Sport Stacking Association (WSSA) rules during the event. There is a summary of the rules for the cup stacking competition online.

Students may participate in any or all of these events as they "Take a Step Toward the Summit."

For more information or questions about Pinnacle, visit the Awana youth ministries events page of awananc.com or contact Shelley Hoag at (704) 649-7980 or at Shelley_hoag@hotmail.com.



Missionary Tip:

If a child misses club, have a director or secretary write a post-card letting them know that you missed them. These are provided by Awana or you can make your own.

This also requires that you have an address for your clubbers!

***For information regarding Awana events, missionaries, calendars, resources, tips and more, visit the North Carolina Awana website at www.awananc.com or the Awana website at www.awana.org!